

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 14, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1726**

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**Introduced by Senator Lowenthal**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Huff)

February 24, 2006

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An act to amend Section 375 of, and to add Section 25353 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1726, as amended, Lowenthal. Vehicles: publicly owned transit system buses: illuminated signs.

(1) Existing law requires buses to be equipped with identification lamps and signs and lighting, as specified.

Existing law makes violation of operating provisions of the Vehicle Code a crime.

This bill would authorize buses, operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly scheduled service, to be equipped with certain illuminated signs, as specified. The bill would require that the illuminated signs adhere to certain specifications; and would thereby create a new crime and impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would revise "lighting equipment" to include these illuminated signs.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 375 of the Vehicle Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 375. "Lighting equipment" is any of the following lamps or  
4 devices:

5 (a) A headlamp, auxiliary driving, passing, or fog lamp, fog  
6 taillamp, taillamp, stoplamp, supplemental stoplamp, license  
7 plate lamp, clearance lamp, side marker lamp, signal lamp or  
8 device, supplemental signal lamp, deceleration signal device,  
9 cornering lamp, running lamp, red, blue, amber, or white warning  
10 lamp, flashing red schoolbus lamp, side-mounted turn signal  
11 lamp, and schoolbus side lamp.

12 (b) An operating unit or canceling mechanism for turn signal  
13 lamps or for the simultaneous flashing of turn signal lamps as  
14 vehicular hazard signals, and an advance stoplamp switch.

15 (c) A flasher mechanism for turn signals, red schoolbus lamps,  
16 warning lamps, the simultaneous flashing of turn signal lamps as  
17 vehicular hazard signals, and the headlamp flashing systems for  
18 emergency vehicles.

19 (d) Any equipment regulating the light emitted from a lamp or  
20 device or the light sources therein.

21 (e) A reflector, including reflectors for use on bicycles, and  
22 reflectors used for required warning devices.

23 (f) An illuminating device that emits radiation predominantly  
24 in the infrared or ultraviolet regions of the spectrum, whether or  
25 not these emissions are visible to the unaided eye.

26 (g) An illuminated sign installed on a bus that utilizes an  
27 electronic display to convey the route designation, route number,  
28 run number, *public service announcement*, or any combination of  
29 these information.

30 SEC. 2. Section 25353 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

31 25353. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 25400 and 25950, a bus  
32 operated by a publicly owned transit system on regularly  
33 scheduled service may be equipped with illuminated signs that

1 include destination signs, route-number signs, run-number signs,  
2 *public service announcement signs*, or a combination thereof,  
3 visible from any direction of the vehicle, that emit any light  
4 color, other than ~~red~~ *the color red emitted from forward-facing*  
5 *signs*, pursuant to the following conditions:

6 ~~(1) Each illuminated sign shall emit diffused nonglaring light~~  
7 ~~with sufficient luminance to be legible to a person with a vision~~  
8 ~~of 20/200, at a distance of 30 feet.~~

9 *(1) Each illuminated sign shall emit diffused nonglaring light.*

10 (2) Each illuminated sign shall be limited in size to a display  
11 area of not greater than 720 square inches.

12 (3) Each illuminated sign shall not resemble nor be installed in  
13 a position that interferes with the visibility or effectiveness of a  
14 required lamp, reflector, or other device upon the vehicle.

15 (4) Each illuminated sign shall display information directly  
16 related to public transit service, including, but not limited to,  
17 route number, destination description, run number, and public  
18 service announcements.

19 *(5) The mixing of individually colored light emitting diode*  
20 *elements, including red, is allowed as long as the emitted color*  
21 *formed by the combination of light emitting diode elements is not*  
22 *red.*

23 ~~(b) Dynamic messaging is permitted on all illuminated signs if~~  
24 ~~the practice adheres to the following requirements:~~

25 *(b) (1) An illuminated sign may be operated as a dynamic*  
26 *message sign in a paging or streaming mode.*

27 *(2) The following definitions shall govern the construction of*  
28 *paragraph (1):*

29 ~~(1)~~

30 (A) “Paging,” meaning character elements or other information  
31 presented for a period of time and then disappearing all at once  
32 before the same or new elements are presented, is permitted if the  
33 display time of each message is between 2.7 and 10 seconds.  
34 Blanking times between each message shall be between 0.5 and  
35 25 seconds.

36 ~~(2)~~

37 (B) “Streaming,” meaning character elements or other  
38 information moving smoothly and continuously across ~~an LED~~  
39 *the display*, is permitted if the character movement time, from  
40 one end of the display to the other, is at least 2.7 seconds, and the

1 movement time of the entire message does not exceed 10  
2 seconds.

3 *(c) A regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall comply*  
4 *with applicable federal law, including, but not limited to, the*  
5 *federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec.*  
6 *12101, et seq.).*

7 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
8 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
9 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
10 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
11 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the  
12 penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section  
13 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a  
14 crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the  
15 California Constitution.